

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

---

**CONTACT:      OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**(916) 657-7202**  
**(916) 657-8639 - FAX**



**May 26, 1999**

**99-13**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW CHP TV SPOT FEATURES TINY SURVIVOR**

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) released a new public service announcement (PSA) today which features the 18-month-old survivor of a fatal crash. According to CHP Commissioner Spike Helmick, "We want people to realize the value of wearing a safety belt. Hopefully this PSA will convince parents and others that they should buckle up on every trip – if not for themselves, then for their loved ones."

The PSA, which also features California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamonte, shows the crushed vehicle which the little girl rode down a 450 foot cliff off towards the Pacific Ocean just off Highway 1 near Big Sur. She was safely buckled in a child safety seat. Her parents were not wearing safety belts and did not survive the crash. The incident drew national attention.

"We want to recognize National Buckle Up America Week (May 22-28) with the release of this PSA. California has the highest percentage of people wearing safety belts in the country. But even though more than 90 percent of motorists are buckling up, we would still like to see that other 10 percent take this message to heart," Helmick said.

#####